

<SU/District Name>
c/o <Superintendent>
<Address>
<Town>, VT <zip>

_____, 2006

Dear <Superintendent>,

You are receiving this letter because one or more schools in your supervisory union are eligible to receive cash reimbursement for certain recent and future technology purchases. The Microsoft Corporation is required to fund this reimbursement as the result of a class-action lawsuit settlement against Microsoft in Vermont Superior Court. The purpose of this letter is to alert you to the program through which this reimbursement will be administered and to help you understand more about it. In the coming weeks, eligible schools will receive detailed information regarding the timeline for the program, qualifying hardware and software, and the reimbursement process. Superintendents in districts with eligible schools will receive copies of the information as it is sent. The following schools from your supervisory union have been determined to be eligible:

<School Name(s)>

BACKGROUND

Pursuant to the settlement and the Superior Court's final judgment order in the case, the Vermont Department of Education (VTDOE), the Vermont Attorney General, and attorneys for the plaintiffs and Microsoft have worked to establish the "cy pres" program for eligible Vermont public schools. Approximately \$4.7 million will be distributed in the form of reimbursement vouchers to 135 eligible schools, educating nearly 46,000 students. These platform-neutral vouchers, rounded to the closest \$100 increment, may be used to purchase a wide variety of computer software and hardware products. Those products **DO NOT** need to be Microsoft products. More information on the history and specific legal details of the cy pres program is posted at: http://www.state.vt.us/educ/new/html/pgm_edtech/cy_pres_program.html and <http://www.microsoftproductssettlement.com/vermont/home.htm>

ELIGIBILITY

Eligibility criteria are determined by the Superior Court's final judgment order. Eligible schools include all public elementary, middle or high schools in which at least 40 percent of the attending K-12 students are eligible to receive free or reduced-priced meals through the National

School Lunch Program (NSLP). Public high schools from within the districts that serve eligible elementary or middle schools are also eligible. For schools that do not participate in the NSLP, both U.S. Census and Food Stamp poverty indicators were used in determining eligibility. Because of timing in the lawsuit, eligibility was determined based on data as of October 2004 maintained by the Vermont Department of Education.

In the coming weeks, the appropriate school(s) and the administrative office in your supervisory union/district will receive correspondence regarding the cy pres program from the Poorman-Douglas Corporation, which was designated by the Superior Court to administer the collection and distribution of claims and vouchers in the settlement. The VTDOE will approve initial applications for reimbursement and will distribute vouchers. After schools complete the vouchers and attach receipts and other proof of purchase, supervisory unions /districts will submit the materials to Poorman-Douglas. Award payments will be made through the supervisory union/district office.

If you have questions or would like additional information, please go to the VTDOE Web site link above or contact Bill Romond, Educational Technology Coordinator, at (802) 828-0064 or billromond@education.state.vt.us.

Sincerely,



Richard H. Cate
Commissioner



William H. Sorrell
Attorney General